

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber gripping device, comprising:

a sheet of material having first and second members hingedly attached at a first end of each of the members; and

a gripping region that includes first and second gripping portions disposed on first and second inner portions of each of said members, wherein the sheet of material further comprises at least one slot oriented transverse to a direction of a length of said gripping region to define separate clamping zones along [[a]] the length of said gripping region.

Claim 2. (Original) The optical fiber gripping device according to claim 1, wherein a first clamping zone imparts a first amount of stress to a fiber inserted in said gripping region, and a second clamping zone imparts a second amount of stress to the fiber, said first amount different from said second amount.

Claim 3. (Original) The optical fiber gripping device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one slot comprises a first slot cut through the first member at a first location along said gripping region and a second slot cut through the first member at a second location spaced apart from the first location, wherein the region between the first and second slots forms an inner clamping region.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber splice device, comprising:

a sheet of material having first and second members hingedly attached at a first end of each of the members; and

a gripping region that includes first and second gripping portions disposed on first and second inner portions of each of said members, wherein the sheet of material further comprises at least one slot oriented transverse to a direction of a length of said gripping region to define

separate clamping zones along [[a]] the length of said gripping region, wherein a first clamping zone includes a splicing region and a second clamping zone includes a buffer clamping region.

Claim 5. (Original) The optical fiber splice device according to claim 4, wherein the first clamping zone imparts a first amount of stress to a fiber inserted in said gripping region, and the second clamping zone imparts a second amount of stress to the fiber, said first amount different from said second amount.

Claim 6. (Original) The optical fiber splice device according to claim 4, wherein the sheet of material comprises first and second slots spaced at different locations along the length of said gripping region.

Claim 7. (Original) The optical fiber splice device according to claim 4, wherein the first and second gripping portions each comprise a semicircular shape.

Claim 8. (Original) The optical fiber splice device according to claim 4, wherein at least one of the first and second gripping portions comprises a v-groove.

Claim 9. (Original) The optical fiber splice device according to claim 4, wherein the sheet of material includes a first slot located on the first member and a second slot located on the second member, opposite the first slot.